

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

December 2012 – Week 2

Air Date: December 9 – December 15 (Sunday – Saturday)



TITLE: THE SILVER SPIKE

DECEMBER 1881 AND EAST MEETS WEST IN TEXAS.

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY, BROUGHT TO YOU BY THIS STATION AND THE SAVE TEXAS HISTORY PROGRAM OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

DECEMBER 15, 1881. THE DESERT SOUTHEAST OF EL PASO.

SINCE A GOLDEN SPIKE COMPLETED THE FIRST TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILROAD IN UTAH TWELVE YEARS AGO, THE NATION'S COASTS ARE CONNECTED. BUT A SOUTHERN ROUTE IS NEEDED.

FOR YEARS, THE SOUTHERN PACIFIC RAILWAY BUILT EAST FROM CALIFORNIA THROUGH EL PASO, WHILE THE TEXAS & PACIFIC TRACKS RACED WEST FROM FORT WORTH. ON THANKSGIVING, THE TWO CREWS ARE ONLY 10 MILES APART WHEN A COMPROMISE IS REACHED.

THE RAILROADS STRIKE A BARGAIN TO JOIN THEIR TRACKS AT A DESOLATE SPOT JUST SOUTH OF THE SIERRA BLANCA MOUNTAIN.

TODAY, RAILROAD MOGUL JAY GOULD DRIVES IN A SILVER SPIKE TO OPEN THE NATION'S SECOND TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILROAD AND TEXAS' TIE TO THE WEST.

THE RAILROADS MET AT SIERRA BLANCA 131 YEARS AGO, THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY.

LEARN MORE AT SAVETEXASHISTORY.ORG OR CALL 800-998-4GLO.

Martin Donell Kohout, "SIERRA BLANCA, TX," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hls47>), accessed November 29, 2012. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE

Save Texas History Program

1-800-998-4GLO | www.savetexashistory.org | www.thisweekintexashistory.org

Texas General Land Office | Communications Division | 512-475-1685